



Mazda MX-5 Club of NSW Inc
ABN 82 599 208 521

2023 Annual General Meeting President's Report

This is my first full-year report as President of the MX-5 Club of NSW. When I stepped into the role a bit over a year ago, the first goal was to bring stability to the committee of our Club. I hope that has been achieved – pretty sure that it has been.

Keeping the Club operating efficiently involves a host of activities – some of which are visible to members of the Club, but many are not. The MX-5 Club has always tried to deliver value to its members. Enthusiasm and energy of the Club's committee and all the other volunteers can only get us so far, so over the last twelve months, the committee has been working behind the scenes on improving various systems and processes to make sure that the Club is here in the long term, and to allow us to work a bit smarter. The Club runs on volunteers, many of whom have full-time jobs and support the Club with the limited time that they have. My goal is to try to make that effort go a bit further.

Cost of living pressures have hit the Club pretty hard over the last year. Motoring activities are a discretionary activity, so it's no surprise that many Club members have had to pull back a little over the last year. Nowhere is this more evident than in motorsport where attendance at our track days has drastically declined over the last year, with a very significant hit to the Club's bottom line. Planning for the 2023 motorsport program happened in 2022, well before the big hike in cost of living. The Club's ability to change our motorsport on the fly is very limited, and many events in 2023 were not well supported. With economic conditions hopefully easing and the excitement of having two new circuits (One Raceway – Wakefield Park, and Circuit Italia) coming onstream next year, I'm sure that things will improve. I believe that 2023 is the bottom of the trough.

On behalf of the committee and the Club as a whole, I'd like to thank the retiring members of the committee for their valuable and much appreciated contribution to the Committee over the years. My apologies if I've missed anyone, but thanks Chris Cameron (Hunter Convenor), Brian Hicks and Andy Bottomley (Sydney Convenors), Chris Wyatt and Bridget Gallop (RPM Convenors), Peter and Keiran Rogers (Mid North Coast Convenors). I'd like to especially thank Michael Soulos who is retiring as Club Captain after 11 years in the role.

A huge welcome to Stephen & Maree Eccleston as the new Sydney Convenors, Sandie Duric as RPM Convenor, and David & Elaine Gazzard as Hunter Convenors. Welcome to Fiona Shedden as Regalia Officer and Gordon Stephens as the new Governance Officer. A big thank you to John Purcell who is taking on the Club Captains role, having previously been the Hunter Convenor with Chris Cameron for the last 3 years.

I look forward to working with the new committee over the next 12 months to continue the great events that our Club has become well known for.

Ian Combes – President – MX-5 Club of NSW